similar types and technologies within the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Record Production of Tobacco

712. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a record production of 100 million kg. of tobacco is expected this year; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to tie up export arrangements so as to prevent glut in tobacco market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) (a) and (b) To avoid situation of glut in the market the Tobacco Board has authorised a crop size of only 103 million kg. of virginia tobacco in Andhra Pradesh this year as against a crop size of 132.78 million kg. last year.

Government creates an environment conducive to export, but does not tie up export contracts itself, which is the role of the exporters.

FIEO complaint against S.I.L.S.

713. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Export organisations has complained about the inadequacy of the entitlement offered to Government recognised export houses, trading houses, star trading houses under the Special Import Licence Scheme; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken by Government on their representation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(d) Review of the Export and Import Policy is a continuous process and changes in the policy are made as and when considered necessary.

Increasing Country's Exports

714. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
SHRI S.K.T. RAMCHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country's exports would seriously decline during the current year in comparison to the previous year; and

(b) if so, what are the estimated exports of the current year and what steps are proposed to be taken for increasing the exports so as to avoid crisis in the balance of payment position?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Exports during April-Dec., 1992 amounted to US$ 13075 million registering an increase of 3.41% in dollar terms over the corresponding period of the previous year. The year 1992-93 is likley to end with exports registering an increase of 5% to 6% in dollar terms over the previous year.

Offer made by Vietnam Trade Delegation

715. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRI RAMCHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRI MD. SALIM:
SHRI ASHIS SEN:
SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vietnam Trade Delegation offered rice, silk, iron and coal at cheaper rates in exchange of

electronics, agriculture and leather sector expertise;

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted the proposal;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether they have also offerted re-export facilities for their items; and

(e) whether their offer for rice much cheaper than that of other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

Setting up of Export Development Fund

716. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SMT. VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an Export Development Fund for small Scale Industries; and

(b) if so, the precise constitution, corpus and objects of the fund and its modus operandi?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No proposal to set up an Export Development Fund for the small scale Industries has been formulated.

(b) Does. not arise.

Proposals for US Investments and Collaboration

717. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SMT. VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large delegation of US business executives led by 'Overseas Private Investment Corporation' visited India towards the end of January 1993; and

(b) if so, what proposals for US investments and collaboration were discussed / finalised during the visit, indicating specifically the areas of industries and the volume of US investment/collaborations contemplated thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. No specific proposal for US investments and collaboration was discussed/finanlised.

Trade with Neighbouring Countries

718. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of imports and exports with Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Srilanka and Pakistan during the last three years;

(b) what steps are being taken to augment the border trade with these countries; and

(c) the exchange rate of the rupee with the currencies of these countries during the said three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The quantum of import and export with Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan during the last three years is given below: